**Chemical Industrial Estates**

1088. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up Mega Chemical Industrial Estates across the country;

(b) if so, what would be the total cost of setting up these mega projects;

(c) how many states have shown interest in these projects; and

(d) the criteria for funding these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) The need for setting up Mega Chemical Industrial Estates (MCIE) having comprehensive infrastructure facilities for the chemical industry has been felt. The cost of such an estate would depend on a number of factors including the size of the estate and the facilities proposed to be provided. So far seven states have shown interest in such a project. After considering all aspects of the issue and the advise of the Planning Commission, it has been decided that the proposal should be commended to private promoters and State Governments.

**Penalising impact of subsidy cut on private fertilizer plants**

1089. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that heavy losses are being sustained by most of the public sector fertilizer plants year after year which were as high as Rs. 2,466 crore in the year 2001-02, as per the report of the Ministry; and

(b) whether Government are subsidizing such losses, at the same time trying to save much smaller amounts on subsidy, by penalizing the efficiency of private and cooperative sector fertilizer plants, under the garb of reducing subsidy, if so, how government expect to ensure continued health and viability of efficiently run fertilizer plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There are 8 Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers.